



# fact sheet

## Georgia Department of Human Resources

# CHILDREN AND AIDS IN GEORGIA

- From 1981 to December 31, 2004, there were 221 children (birth to 12 years) in Georgia who were reported to have developed AIDS. Georgia has the ninth highest number of reported pediatric AIDS cases in the country.
- Babies can get HIV from their mothers during pregnancy, during delivery, after birth, and during breast feeding. This method of transmission is known as perinatal transmission.
- Ninety-four percent of all children with AIDS in Georgia contract it from their mother through perinatal transmission. Three percent contracted it through blood transfusions and blood products.
- Seventy-eight percent of all pediatric AIDS cases reported in Georgia are among African-American children.
- Of the 221 pediatric AIDS cases reported in Georgia through December 31, 2004, fifty-four percent of the children have died.
- HIV infection can lead to a wide range of developmental problems and affect many vital organs in infants because of their immature immune and nervous systems.

### Prevention

- Women considering pregnancy or are already pregnant need to know their own HIV status and the status of their partner. If the pregnant woman is HIV positive, there is medical treatment and counseling available to maintain her health and the health of her baby. If she receives appropriate therapy during pregnancy and delivery, and if the infant receives it after birth, the chances of the infant becoming HIV infected are drastically reduced.
- After delivery, an HIV-infected mother needs to find a pediatrician familiar with pediatric HIV treatment, and she needs to arrange for her long-term medical care and get advice on effective methods of safer sex and contraception from her doctor or county health department.

### Where to go for information about HIV/AIDS

- Your doctor, local health department, or the Division of Public Health at (404) 657-2700.
- Call the **Georgia AIDS Information Line at 1-800-551-2728**. You won't have to give your name. They can answer your questions or refer you to community outreach programs.
- Call **Helpline Georgia at 1-800-338-6745** to find out about drug treatment programs.

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Office of Communications  
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